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VIRGINIA COLONIAL RECORDS.

(MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS, 1621-23.)

(From the Virginia Manuscripts in the Library of Congress.)

(CONTINUED.)

[The volume known as the Bland Papers, from which the following miscellaneous notes were copied, appears to have been compiled from the original records of the Colony in order to form a mass of material for a history of Virginia. The volumes and folios of the original records are referred to in the copy.]

BOOK NO. A. 42.

¹A Letter from The Privy Council to the Gov'r and Council to inform them of ye care the King had taken ab't Virg'a & Bermudas in Establishing fit directions & ord'rs and a complaint of the neglect of ye people as to victuals and fortifications dated 28 ap. 1623.

An order of Council of the Same date by w'ch a former contract that the King Should have 1/3 of all Tob'o & 6d p ll on ye other 2 parts is made void. And tho' the King used to have 12d p ll. will now take but 9d p ll. for all charges of His Matie. The Compa. is to have the Sole Importacon of Tob'o So that they bring it directly to England.

²A Letter from privy Council to inform ye Go'r & Coun of

¹ At the date with which these papers begin the long negotiations of the Virginia Company with the English government for a tobacco contract had ended in entire failure, and the attack on the Company which was to terminate its existence had begun

² The appointment of this commission, which Brown (*First Republic*, 536,) says was made on November 1, was a part of the royal plan of trying to secure damaging evidence against the Virginia Company. As is well known, the visit of the commissioners to Virginia was fruitless, the colonists remaining staunchly loyal to the Company.

4 Com'rs sent to inquire of divers things concerning the State of the plantacons. 24. 8b. 1623. Jno. Harvey, Jno. Porey, Abra. Peyrsie & Sam'l Mathews.

³A proposal of the King & Council to the Company to Surrender their Charter & take a new one in w'ch their Interests were to be preserved. the K. to app't a Gov'r & 12 assistants to reside in Engl'd ye 1st time and when the Gov'r dyed the 12 were to name 3 & the King to choose a Gov'r out of 'em and new assistants were to be chosen by Gov'r & assistants and to be allowed of by the King and the Gov'r & 6 of the assistants to be changed once in 2 years. And a Gov'r & 12 assistants to reside in Virg'a who are to depend on the Gov'r & assistants in Engl'd as they are to depend on the privy Council & in the New Charter there shall be the like grant of lands &c. If the Compa refuse the K. will proceed to recall ye Charter 8. 8b'r 1623.

The Company puts in a dilatory ans'r and they are ord'd in a Short time to put in another (17. 8b. 1623.

The Council are informed that this reformacon would discourage advent'rs in Virg'a to p'secute their business & might occasion a Stop of the Ships now ready to go rejected & ord'd that ye Ships go imediately and the proposals are to be published and explained in Virg'a. 24. 8b'r 1623.

⁴Alderman Johnsons & als declaracon of the prosperous State of ye Colony in S'r Tho. Smiths time w'ch he attributes to S'r Tho & his friends chiefly (without date).

The Generall Assemblys answer to that declaracion dated ffeb. 20. 1623 contradictory.

A Le'r from the Gen'l Assembly to K. & Council thanks the K. for his care & favour & begs continuance of it. 1st taking off 3d p ll. Tob'o 2 protest ag't the Slanderous rep't

³The full text of this proposition is in *Records of the Virginia Company*, II, 467.

⁴This petition of Alderman Johnson was the first important move on the part of those who opposed the Sandys-Southampton administration of the Virginia Company. The text is in *Records of the Virginia Company*, II, 373-374.

of their neglect of fortificacons & provision of victuals. as to a change of Governm't from Compa. to the K. No reason to complain of the Compa. since [?] the expir of Smiths Govm't. pray that Gov'rs may not have absolute authority again but may be obliged to take advise of ye Council in all things, that they be not too Strictly bound to observe the Instructions out of Engl'd because ye English don't know ye Country that no project may be set on foot without their approbacon here. Short continuance of Gov'rs [being but 3 years] inconven't being sick ye 1st and preparing for their return the last. pray that ye liberty of assemblies may be retained. (no date.)

Gen'l Assemblys pet'n to the K. That he will not credit ye late declar of ye happy estate of ye Colony w'ch in truth was miserable in ye first 12 years, but take their ans'r to that dec'l for truth That ye pr'sent Gov'r be cont'd otherwise that they may not fall into Smiths hands again or his confidents, Set forth that they are disabled by a late masacre & mean price Tob'o. So much as to Set up [?] Staple Comodities or ex-terpate ye Ind'ns (much less fortificac Ag't foreign Enemies). and humbly pray ye effect of ye K's intentions of Virg'a & Summer Islands Sole Import Tob'o but beseech ye K. not to believe they design that Contemptible weed as their end but as a pr'sent means. Pray for ye Soldiers and other supports that they had been put in hope of and that ye Assembly might dispose them as best knowing how. (no date).

⁵The 4 Com'rs decl [?] to ye assembly & their 4 p'posicons to them: 1. what proper places for fortific ag't Ind'ns or other Enemies. 2. How ye Country stands as to Indians. 3. what hopes of this plantacion & 4. what best to attain y'm hopes.

The Assemblies answer to the 4 propositions:

1. point Comfort, Wariscoyack, from Weynonackque marsh & upwards are Sev'l places w'ch may com'd Shipping or boates The best ag't ye Ind'ns & for encrease of plenty is ye ruining of ye forest by runing apale from Martins hundred to Ches-

⁶For the proceedings of the Commissioners and the Assembly, see *First Republic*, 570-584.

easyake w'ch is 6 miles & planting on both Rivers Pomonky being also more defensible ag't forreign Enemies.

2. Irreconcilable enemies, too great a charge to drive them away, no Spoyle to be expected, they lye in ambush & Surprise us Suddenly. We have not ye range of ye Country for Cattle &c nor for game w'ch is plenty and are forced to keep watch and ward to Secure ourselves & Labours always.

3. One of ye goodliest parts of ye Earth, Rivers falling from High mountains w'ch ye Ind'ns say contain rich mines [?] & 6 daies Journey beyond them another Sea & River descend into it—varietie of fish & fowle, fruitfull Soil, many trees Gems dyes Earth & Simples, vynes, mulberrys growing wild, woods full of deer & other game. for more pticular relacons referr to reports of S'r Tho Gates & S'r Tho Dale to ye Compa. w'ch are no waies Hyperbolicall, no countrey more worth a princes care.

4. A runing armie, planting vines & mulberry trees &c to raise price of Tob'o and then discover ye wealth of ye mountains & Seas. (and Sev'l other methods are proposed for plenty & health & for Encouragm't of people to come) and then they conclude thus This done we doubt not but in Conv't time to purchase to His Ma'tie a rich & flourishing Kingdom.

The 4 Com'rs Le'r to Assembly dated 2 Mar. 1623. recommending the form of a writing to be Subscribed by y'm all & Sent to ye Lords. which the Com'rs promise to Sign also. which writing was to institute a new form of Gov'm't and to revoke ye Companies Charter Securing their pticular Interests with thanks to the K. for his care &c.

The Assembly want to know the Com'rs Instrucons & depth of their authority, (being Sign'd their last ppositions) that is ye above 4.

The Assembly answers their Letter of ye Second of Mar that they have thank'd the King & answered their LLps Lers & ord'rs Submissively. That when their consents to ye Surrend'r of ye Lers patents Shall be required, will be ye p'p'est time to reply That they conceive the K'gs content of chang-

ing the Governm't proceeds from much Informacon which they hope may be altered upon their faithfull declaration.

The Com'rs ans'r to assembly dated 3. Mar 1623 that they had no Informacon &c as to the form of Submission to His of the Country as freemen & planters & to obtain his Maties Ma'ty but was p'pounded of their own discretions for ye good favour upon their p'sons & comon cause. That their Com yet imperformed did not concern ye Assembly but concerneth their p'sons Serv'ts corn cattle armes houses &c

⁶The 35 Laws & orders March 5. 1623. copied

⁷Treasurer & Company's Commission to S'r ffra: Wyatt Gov'r & Council w'ch Council are to assist ye Gov'r in ye adm'scon of Justice, to advance Christianity among Ind'ns, to erect ye Colony in obedience to Mis Matie and in maintaining ye people in Justice & Christian conversacon & Strength'g them ag't enemies. The s'd Gov Council, & two Burg. out of ev'ry Town Hun'd or planta' to be chosen by the Inhabitants to make up a Gen'l Assembly who are to decide all matters by the greatest number of voices but ye Gov'r is to have a negative voice to have power to make orders & acts necessary wherein they are to imitate the policy of ye form of Gov'm't Laws Customs manner of trial & other admon of Justice used in Engl'd as the Compa' are required in their Leres patents. No Law to continue or be of force till ratified by a quarter Court to be held in England & returned und'r Seale after ye Colony is well favoured & Settled no order of Q'ter Court in Engl'd Shall bind till ratify'd by the Gen'l Assembly. dated 24. July 1621.

⁸Instructions to the Governor for the time being & Council of State in Virginia. Same date 47 in number

See ye abridgm't next leaf

The Second Charter to the Company in ye 7th of K. Jan. 1.

The first Charter in the 4th of ye same King.

⁶See *Hening*, I, 121-129.

⁷See *Hening*, I, 110-114.

⁸See *Hening*, I, 114-118.

An ordinance to enlarge ye number of ye Council & augmenting their authority.

Book No. A. 42.

⁹By Instructions dated 24. July 1621 to keep up religion of the Church of England as near as may be. to be obedient to the King and do Justice after the form of the laws of Engl's and not to injure ye natives & forget old quarells now buried. to be Industrious & Supress drunkenness gameing & excess in cloaths not to permit any but ye Council & heads of hundreds to wear gold in their cloaths or to wear Silk till they make it themselves not to offend any forreign princes to punish pyracies to build fortresses & blockhouses at ye mouths of Rivers. to use means to convert ye heathen viz. to converse with Some. each town to teach Some children fit for the College intended to be built. After S'r Geo. Yeardley had gathered ye psent years crop he is to deliver to S'r ffra. Wyatt the 100 Ten'ts belonging to Gov'rs place. Yearleys Governm't to expire 18. Nov'r next & than Wyatt to be pub'l Gov'r to Swear ye Council. Geo. Sandis app. Treasurer & he is to put in Exucon all orders of Court ab't Staple Comodities to whom is allotted 1500 acres & 50 Ten'ts. To the Marshall S'r W'm Newce the Same. To Companies Deputy ye Same. To the Phisitian 500 acres & 20 Tenants. & the Same to the Secretary. To review the Comissions to S'r Geo. Yeardley Gov'r & the Council dated 18. Nov. 1618 for dividing ye Colony into Cities Burroughs &c and to observe all forms Instruc's (a copy whereof were sent) if they did not contradict ye psent and all orders of Court [made in Engl'd]. to make a Catalogue of ye people in every planta' & their condicons & of deaths marriages christenings to take care of dead psons estates for ye right owners & keep a list of all Cattle & cause ye Sec'ry to return copies of the pr'mises once a year. to take care of ev'ry planta' upon ye death of their chief Not to plant above 100l

⁹ Printed, *Hening* I, 114-118, as instructions for Governor Wyatt.

Tob'o p head to Sow great quantities of corn for their own use, & to Support ye multitudes to be Sent yearly to enclose land to keep cows Swine poultry &c & pticularly Kyne which are not to be killed yet next to corn plant mulberry trees & make Silk & take care of ye frenchmen & als Sent ab't y't work to try Silk grass plant abundance of Vynes & take care of ye Viguerons Sent to put 'prentices to trades & not let 'em forsake their trades for planting Tob'o or any such useless comodity, to take care of ye Dutch Sent to build Saw mills & Seat them at ye falls that they may bring their timber by the Currant of ye water to build water mills & block houses in ev'ry planta' that all Contracts in Engl'd or Virg'a be performed & ye breaches punished accord. to Justice. Tenants not to be enticed away. to take care of those Sent ab't an Iron work & especially m'r John Berkly that they don't mis-carry again this being the greatest hope & expectation of ye Colonie. to make Salt, pitch Tarr Soap ashes &c So often recomended & for which materials had been sent. to make oyl of Walnuts and imploy ye apothecaries in distilling lees of beer and Searching after minerals dyes Gums & drugs &c & Send Small q'ties home to make Small quantity of Tob'o and that very good. that ye houses appointed for reception of new comers & publick Store houses be built kept clean &c to Send ye State of affairs quarterly & a duplicate next shipping to take care of Capt Wm Norton & Certain Italians Sent to Set up a glass furnace a copy of a Treatise of the planta' business & Excellent observances made by a gent'l of capacity is Sent to lye among ye records & recomended to ye Councillors to Study. Mr Wm Clayborne a Survey'r Sent to Survey ye planters lands & make a map of the Country. Chief officers that have Tenants reprimanded for taking fees but require that ye Clerks have fees Set for passes warrants copies of orders Seals &c Gov'r and Councill to app't proper times for admon Justice & provide for the Entertainm't of ye Council during their Sessions. to be together one whole month about State affairs & law Suits to record complaints of consequence,

to keep a Reg'r of ye acts of Q'ter Sessions & Send home copies. If a Gov'r dyes ye maj'r p't of Councill to choose one of themselves within 14 daies but is voices be divided the L't Gov'r Shall have ye place & next ye Marshall next the Treasurer one of ye 2 Deputies next. Gov'r & Chief officers not to let out their tenants as usual The Gov'r only Shall Sumon Councils & Sign warr'ts & execute or give authority to Execute Council orders except in cases that do belong to the Marshall Treas [?] Deputies &c The Gov'r to have absolute authority to determine & punish all neglects & contempts of authority, except ye Council, who are to be tried at ye Quarter Sessions & censured Gov'r to have but ye Casting voice in Council or Court but in ye Assembly a negative voice. that care be taken that there be no engrossing Com'o or fore-stalling ye mark't all Serv'ts to fare alike in the Colony & their punishm't for any offences is to Serve ye Colony in publick works. to see that the Earl of Pembrooks 30000 acres be very good. to make discovery along ye coasts & find a fishery between James River and Cape Cod As to raising Staple Com'o the Chief officers ought to Set examples and to aym at the Establishm't of ye Colony & lastly not to let Ships Stay long & to freight them w'th Walnut & any less valuable Comodity.

OATH OF COUNCILLOR & SECRETARY.

The other Side ye Same book No. A. 42.

¹⁰In The first Session of Assembly that was held in Nov. & Dec. 1621 accord'g to the Instrucon given had taken order for planting Vynes and Mulberry trees & that in clearing ground no mulberry trees Should be destroyed. That all are inclined to follow Silk and desire Seed of Worms & all Sorts of Vynes & english grain may be sent like well that ye price of Tob'o is left at libertie have taken care to dispose of ye

¹⁰ A general letter from the Governor and Council in Virginia to th Company sent to England in the *George*, January. 1622. *First Republic*, 462-463, where extracts from this document are given.

maids but desire ye next Sent may bring victuals with them will take care of new comers thanks for Sending mr Tho White a min'r desire to have Sev'l min'rs more which Shall be no charge to the Compa. Want a pson Skillful in fortificacon to advise the best places of defence and where to Seat the Chief City of this Kingdom whether Ja. City is not pp upon arrival of S'r ffra. Wyatt Sent m'r Thorp with a message & present to the Great King Sasawpen formerly called Oetan, and to his Brother Apochankano now called Mango-peatomon who were much pleased & confessed their Jealousie that ye new Gov'r wou'd not continue ye league Apochankano gave him great hope that he would entertaine Some of our families among them and that some of them should Cohabit with us, & made a new promise to guide us to ye mines his inclinacons to our religion, his knowledge of ye Starrs calls the north Starr & Constallacon about it Manguahaian i e the great Bear [?] appoints Pomucke for further conference. Gov'rs 100 ten'ts decreased to 46 S'r Geo. Yeardley refuses to make up ye defecency No land is yet allotted for Treasurer or phisitian but the Secretarys Tenants were placed at Achamak last year a place too far from Ja. City & there being many dead & but 9 alive they have allowed him fees instead of 'em till made up Tob'o striped to 100 plants p head 9. leaves a plant The way to encourage corn is to buy it here instead of Sending it over, propose 7/ Sterl a bushell S'r Geo. Yeardley has built a windmill & M'r Treasurer ab't a watermill m'r Treasurer & m'r Barkly will rep't what done ab't Iron work, we are ab't errecting a Salt work, pitch & tarr not worth while nor Soap ashes, a Sample Sent of Silk grass, want divers Tradesmen, Treas'r will inform you about the Italians. Angry with the book recomended, for the bitterness of ye language. glad that the Earl of Pembroke has Settled in the South Colony will assist him. Newports News Seated by Irish The Dutchman dies without making a Sawmill another proposed. Not dated Seems to be in Jan'y or ffeb 1621.

¹¹An acco't of a massacre 22 March 1621. 300. people Slain. & more Since with Cattle &c. burnt most of the houses, Since w'ch we got near together, want fforts ag't their Savage & fforreign Enemies. for keeping the people together pray that no patents be granted at home but only by the Gov'r here in miserable want of corn and little can be made next year for ye warr in hand want Some to be sent & arms & ammunition to revenge upon our enimies and also people Skillful in fortificacon w'th pp tooles &c at our own charge. will pay Tob'o for all. dat after ap'l 1622

¹²Pray the Compa' to thank ye K. for ye arms & ammunit with w'ch they resolve to revenge ag't Indians and thank Compa. for their Care. give an acco't of the warrs ag't sev'l nations of Indians anticipating their advice the mischief done the Ind'ns & the Spoyle taken from 'em being corn. The Indians being Swift footed & having ye advantage if ye woods are not Suddainly to be destroyed but more has been killed this year than all Since ye begining of ye Colony Hepe no blame upon us for ye massacre if they please to look in their own Instruccons to cohabit with them &c. Their particular reasons for not taking notice of ye warning last year [w'ch Shews y'r treachery & cuning of ye Indians] Drunkenness pceeds from Covetuous people at home Sending great q'ties of wine the badness whereof kills great numbers no excess in cloathing here w'ch thing Should be taken as a flout for our poverty & nakedness had it came from any body but them But little ground for ye report of their abandoning Ja. River for Accomack but their was Councils about it the quitting So many plant'rs was absolutely necessary. principle Workmen about the Iron work Slain m'r Barkley & m'r Southern say its impossible to proceed in it. formerly Gov'rs were absolute & the people were all Colony Servants Governed by marshall Law. . give account what has been done to raise Staple Com-

¹¹ A letter sent to England about May 22, 1622. *First Republic*, 471.

¹² A letter from the Governor and Council of Virginia to the Company. See *First Republic*, 502, 503.

odities Iron Silk Silk grass Sassaphras glass & their care of people Sent over S'r Wm Nuce died in 2 daies after reading his patent Complain of their listining to Slanders & divers mismanagements of ye Compa. & beg them to believe the reports Sent them only. Signed by Gov'r Wyatt & Council dated 20. Jan'ry 1622.

Book No. A. 42.

¹³The great King sends Chanco (a person that revealed the plot to divers the day of ye massacre & so served them) & complains his people are Starved by their taking away their corn & burning their houses & desire leave to plant at Pamunky & their other Seats upon w'ch Condicon he'd Send home the Eng. prison'rs being 20 and with Chanco also came a great man called Comahum an actor in the massacre not sent by the Great King who was put in chains with design to make advantage They upon that condicon had leave to Seat as afores'd & within a week they sent m'rs Boyce the Chief of ye prisoners apparrelled like one of their Queens & desired notice might be taken of it the rest not sent for that m'r Poole the Interpreter had threatened ye s'd King upon w'ch pr'sents of beeds are sent by ye prison'rs friends. it will be an advantage to know ye places they Seat in where they may be fal'n upon & ruined with more ease then is they Seated in private corners. Proclamacons have issued laying a penalty for not getting Sassafrax. Will Send Some Silk grass & earth of the nature of Terra Lemnia of borth there is abundance. losses of people by an Infection bro't in by ye last Ships fear ye Summer will increase it dat 4. ap'l 1623.

¹⁴By a Successfull Stratagem we have not only gott our prisoners but cut off Some Kings & great Comd'rs among whom we are assured Apochankano is one knowing their residence

¹³ Letter, dated April 4, 1623, from the Governor and Council to the Company.

¹⁴ Letter from the Governor and Council to the Earl of Southampton, which Brown (*First Republic*, 515,) dates June 24, 1623.

Shall next blow nearly ruin them. We go cheerfully on with ye fort advise 2000 acres be given to Such as will inhabit about it [it dont appear where this fort is] Martins hundred ought to be taken care of being usefull in ye destruccon of ye Indians & for plenty being impaled. That all new comers ought to have an experienced man of this Colony to command them & pay him for it p pol Whether we shall make prize of Dutch & ffrench trading with Ind'ns in our limitts. all in health no date but Seems to be in ye Summer 1623.

¹⁵We have Slaughter'd the Indians cut down their corn burnt their houses reedified but cou'd not pceed by reason of a Scarcity but the Gov'r as soon as corn was ripe did the like to ye Pascoticons on Potomack & their associates for cutting off Capt. Spillman & m'r Pountis his pinnace but they carryed their corn So farr in ye woods that we left it there.

The Potomacks are our antient allies & helped us in the revenge last menconed & are now to help us ag't the Pomunkeys a hardship upon us is that when we Should fight our crops Suffer Notwithstanding your advice to observe Justice to this persidious people we Shall use all Stratagems to ruin & destroy them w'ch will not be unjust whoever may otherwise inform you.¹⁶ good conveniences for new comers, rules for their health, to give us 8/ a bushell for corn will Set people to work that way & diminish Tob'o & further other undertakings. Thank ye King for granting the Sole Import of Tob'o to ye & Colonys & for ye meale he sent the blame laid on ye Compa. is malicious & unjust Tob'o 18d p. 11 w'ch will hardly maintain us Wine & that bad & excessive dear ruins health & empties our purses Complain of ye Companies listning to false reports, inveigh ag't the author of Virg'a unmasked who was not capable of giving any acco't being Idle drunken whoring pson Shoud have been punished but for place

¹⁵ Letter, November 28, 1623, from the Governor and Council to the Company.

¹⁶ This seems to be the end of the abstract of the letter of June 24. That of February 8th appears to follow. See *First Republic*, 567, 569.

he bore. Glass works Shipwrights, Blomery, ffort, referred to next time of writing after assembly. No date.

Since last Lres have met in a Gen'l assembly & have sent m'r John Pountis to Solicit our Comon cause with the King & Con. complain ye wrong informacons has been prejudical. Colony well furnished with provisions but powder & shot all Spent Ap. 17. 1624.

Assembly answered ye 4 Com'rs ppositions having rec'd their promise to participate with us after more fully informed but ye assem demanding their conceptions they deined to give them till ye Lords of ye p. Con had had a Survey of what they intended We having ye Same care were pvented m'r Porey Suborning our Clerk learned all our Secrets for w'ch we cut off ye Clks eares a due punishm't for his perjury. hope m'r Porey will get no Credit by it. May 12. 1624.

THE SERVANTS' PLOT OF 1663.

[This plot of a number of indentured servants has received but little notice from our historians. An act of Assembly was passed at the September session, 1663, decreeing that the 13th of September should be perpetually kept as a day of thanksgiving for the preservation of the country from a "desperate conspiracy" entered into by "certain mutinous villains" (*Hening* II, 191). On September 16th, the House of Burgesses gave a reward to Birkenhead, the servant who revealed the plot, (*ib.* 204). Campbell, in his *History of Virginia*, p 262, gives a brief account of the plot. This attempted insurrection is the subject of Miss Johnston's well-known novel, *The Prisoners of Hope*].

James Citty

The Jurors for our Sovereigne Lord ye King upon their oath pr'sent that John Gunter Late of ye Country of Gloster Laborer, Wm Bell Late of ye same Laborer, Richard Darbi-

shire late of ye same Laborer, John Hayte Late of ye same Laborer, Thomas Jones Late of ye same Laborer, Wm Ball Late of ye same Laborer, Wm Poultney late of ye same Laborer, Wm Bendell Late of ye same Laborer, and Thomas Collins Late of ye same Laborer as false Traytors against his most Excellent Prince, of Sovereigne Lord Charles ye second by ye Grace of God King of England Scotland, ffrence and Ireland and of his Dominions thereunto Belonging defender of ye ffaith &c, The feare of God in their harts not haveing, nor weighing their due Allegiance but seduced by ye Instigacon of the devill, and intending wholly to withdraw, putt out and Extinguish the hearty love and the true, and due obedience w'ch a true, and faithfull subject of ye King should beare, and by ye Law is bound to beare towards our said Sovereigne Lord ye King, The sixth day of this instant September in ye fifteenth year of ye Raigne of our said Sovereigne Lord ye King at Newmans Land in ye County of Gloucester aforesaid ffalsly, malitiously, and traterously intended, imagined, went aboute, and Compassed ye said King their Sovereigne, and naturall Leige Lord not onely from his Royall State, Tytle, Power, and Government of this his Ma'ties Country of Virginia utterly to deprive, depose, cast downe, and disherite but also to bring, and put ye Right Hon'able S'r Wm Berkeley Kn't his said Ma'ties Governo'r and Cap't Genn'll of this Country of Virginia from his Power Authority, and Government if hee should oppose, or resist them in their wicked, and Rebellious proceedings, and also sedition in this said Country to rayse up, and warr to Levy, and make and wholly submit and distroy ye State of this Country of Vir'g being in, and throughout well constituted, and ordered, and to [] Intent they might fullfill, and bring to passe those their aforesaid trayterous purposes, Immaginacons, compassions, and intents they the said John Gunter, Wm Bell, Richard Darbishire, John Hayte, Thomas Jones, Wm Ball, Wm Poultney, Wm Bendell and Thomas Collins ye day and year aforesaid at ye place did traterously meete together, conferr,

and treatie concerning their traterous purposes, immaginacons, compassings and Intents, aforesaid and by what meanes and manner they might bee brought to pass and accomplished, and then and there maliciously, advisedly, and traterously, did agree, designe, intend and determine the house of one ffrancis Willis in ye County aforesaid Esqr one of his Ma'ties Councellours of State for this Country of Virginia to breake and Enter rend all the Gunns, Weapons, and other armes and amunicons of Warr there found to seise upon and take away and therewith to arme themselves, and Likewise the house of one Katharine Cooke in ye same County Widow in Like manner breake, and Enter, and all Gunns, Weapons and other Armes, and Ammunitions of Warr to seise upon and take away and therewith to arme certaine other psons to ye number of thirty, by them, and w'th them through their false, malicious and traterous, procurments combyned and Engaged in there said trayterous, and rebellious purposes, immaginacons, compassing, and Intents, and also to kill and murder all and Every Pson and Psons that should in any manner, or wayes resist, oppose, or hinder them in their wicked and rebellious pcedings, and sedition, to ye utter subvercon of ye state of this his Ma'ties Country, and Contrary to ye statutes in such Cases made to witt ye 25 Ed: 3: ca: 2: 13: Eliz: and against ye peace of ye Sovereaigne Lord ye King his Crowne and Dignities &c.

The Examinacon of Thomas Collins of ye County of Glocester Laborer being Examined sayth

That upon ye first day of this pr'sent September the said Collins went to acquaint Bell that one Richard Darbishire aboute three dayes before did bid him ye said Bell w'th ye said Collins meete him and other at Mr Knights Little house in ye woods aboute a designe for their freedom where ye said Collins and Bell did meete other Eight men, and there they did Contrive, and agree that upon ye Sunday night following aboute 12 of ye Clock to meete at a place called ye poplar spring, and to bring armes w'th them ye said Collins intend-

ing to bring one of his Mast'r Coll Walkers Gunns and other ammunicon, and from thence to march to ye Right Hono'ble ye Governo'r and there to desire to bee released of one year of their tyme w'ch they had to serve, and for their Cap't they would have Either Gunter, or Bell, and in case ye Governo'r should deny to release them ye said years service that then they would goe forth of ye Land if they Could to an Island w'ch ye said Collins doth not remember ye name off, and further sayth not.

THOMAS COLLINS.

Taken by mee ~~ye~~ 13th of Sept' 1663

Bul: Mitford his Ma'ties Attor'y

The Examinacon of William Budell taken ye 8th of September 1663 before us Leift Coll Willis, m'r Abraham Iverson and maj: John Smith who sayth that being at a little house of m'r Peter Knights in ye woods neere unto m'rs Cooks quarter where were pr'sent Eight servants, and my selfe, namly W'm Bell, one Collins, W'm Poultney, Richard Darbshire, one Gunter servant to m'r Pate, there wee did move that an oath of secresie should pass for ye unconcealment of our designe w'ch was as followith, first that wee all should meete at poplars spring on Sunday night next, and to bring w'th us what Company, armes, and ammunicon wee could gett, and in ye first place to gett to ye dwelling house of Leift C Willis, and to seise on his armes and drum. and soe to march from house to house, and wee did intend to goe to ye Governor, and demand our freedome, and in Case that ye Governor should refuse, to march out of ye Country, and further that if case any Pson then pr'sent should not condescend, and yield, and keepe secret our intended designe then wee resolved to be ye death of him, and further sayth not as witness my hand

WILLIAM BUDELL.

The Examination of William Bell. then Examined doth averr and Confirme all ye pr'misses aforesayd, and further sayth that Richard Darbshire came unto mee, and acquainted

mee of ye aforesaid designe above a month agoe, and further saith not as witness my hand this 8th of September 1663

WILLIAM BELL.

The Examinacon of Thomas Collins taken ye 8th of September 1663 Sayth that ye persons above menconed were all resolved to meet one Sunday night next at poplar spring, and that the Company within menconed did propose and offer unto Wm Bell that ye said Wm Bell should bee their Leader in the aforesaid designe, but hee would not accept of the offer, and further sayth that hee the said Collins was on Saturday night last sent unto ye sayd Bell by one Richard Darbshire that hee the said Bell should come to m'rs Cooks Quarters, and Speake w'th ye said Darbshire, and further sayth not

THOMAS COLLINS.

The Examinacon of Wm Poultney taken ye 8th of September 1663 sayth that he was pr'sent at a Little house of Mr Knights on Saturday Last, and there were pr'sent ye persons in ye aforementioned Examinacon specified, and there was agreed amoungst them to make a Rysing, and to march to Leift. Coll Willis his house, and to seise on his armes and Drum, and to Endeavor to secource [?] their freedoms, and further sayth that Richard Darbshire first acquainted him ye ye designe and further sayth not

the marke of

WILLIAM W POULTNEY.

The Examinacon of John Gunter taken ye 9th of September 1663 who sayth that on Last Sunday hee was at a Little house in the woods where was foure more besides himselfe, but w't they did he will not Confesse onely hee sayth that thay were intended to goe to ye Governor aboute their freedome, and further sayth not

JNO. GUNTER.

The Examinacon of Thomas Jones taken ye 9th of September 1663 who sayth that on Sunday Last Jno Gunter desired him to goe to Maj'r Smiths house, and desire Maj'r Smiths Drummer to meete him at James his House, and soe to goe to m'r Knights Little house in ye woods, and wee three went, and mett Six more nine in all whose names I know not, and that on Sunday next wee were to meete at Poplare spring, and there Gunter pmised to bring what of m'r Pates servants hee Could, and from poplar spring wee were resolved to march to Coll Willis house, and scise on his armes, and ammunition, and drume, and soe to march from house to house to house, and seise on what armes wee could gett and that Last Sunday was seaventh day at night, Gunter revealed it to us, and then they shooke hands, and swore surely to their Designes, and after all was don amongst us, then Bell, Gunter, and Darbshire had private Conference amoungst themselves, what it was I know not, and further sayth not as witness my hand

THOMAS JONES.

The Examinacon of Wm Ball taken ye 9th Septemb'r 1663 who sayth that Jones told him Last friday night that sunday they were to meete at m'r Knights house in ye Woods, and desired mee to goe, and sonday I went w'th them, and there wee mett 9 in all but what was their designe I know not, but onely ye next sunday night wee were to meete at ye poplar spring, and further sayth not as witnese my hand

the marke of

WILLIAM X BALL.

(TO BE CONTINUED)